



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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“When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth” (Genesis 9:16 ESV).

We have seen many rainbows this rainy season. They are a reminder to us of God’s everlasting faithfulness to us.



A REMINDER OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

The Summer

This summer was a challenge to the entire Ritter family. The power outages of three times a week for fourteen hours a day lasted through early July. The rains did come, and that was a huge blessing to us. The rains helped to ease the low water level at the hydroelectric plants. Our moving date was moved back too many times to count. Mike continued to work on the landscaping around the Village and overseeing the completion of the construction. Ken Dulany was on furlough, so Mike oversaw some of his job this summer, also. The Dulanys returned to Ethiopia on August 8.

Jon completed his ninth-grade year at Bingham and improved his grades from the first semester. The entire family was happy to have Jon home full time since he boarded at the school during the school year. Sherri has completed three classes toward her masters in education, but has put her degree on hold due to the power outages and uncertainty of the internet connection at the Rafiki Village.

One of the blessings of this summer was the visit of the Home Office during the first week of August. Rosemary Jensen, our president, along with her husband, Dr. Bob spent two days with us. In the group were three others from Home Office and two board members. Demissee, our Ethiopian assistant, also spent time with the group. Since the Dulanys were still on furlough, having Demissee was very helpful. The group toured the Village site, and they were very pleased with the quality of the construction.



DR. BOB, DEMISSEE, AND ROSEMARY

Mike spent time going over the Village construction with Chris Moyer, Director of Facilities. Sherri spent time planning the school with Karen Elliot, Director of African Operations.

The Move

Ethiopians often say, “Only God knows.” That was our answer when we were asked when we would move to the Village. Now we have another answer. The Ritters spent the first night at their new home at the Rafiki Village Ethiopia on Saturday, August 30, 2008. Our co-workers, the Dulanys, moved the next day.



VIEW OF THE VILLAGE FROM OUR KITCHEN WINDOW

The construction is not completed on the rest of the Village. There are many finishing details to complete. *Please continue to pray for the final details to be completed to quality.*

The Future

So now the new question is, "When will the Village begin to accept children?" "Only God knows" is the answer. Furniture must be ordered and made to outfit the children's cottages and the guest house. Employees must be screened and hired for the kitchen and laundry. Mothers, who will be caring for the children, and teachers to work in the school must be screened and hired. Mothers and teachers must go through training, and then they will be tutored to strengthen their English skills.

"Oh, you are the driving family."

Since no dorm parents were found, Jon and Jessi are traveling daily from Mojo to Addis to attend Bingham Academy (BA). The trip is approximately one and one-half hours one way. Josh Dulany is also traveling with Jon and Jessi, as he is also at BA daily.



THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

God blessed us with the opportunity for the children to spend the first two weeks of school in Addis so that the children did not have to make the daily trip from Mojo. When talking to teachers or other parents, we have become known as the "driving family." Jessi is adjusting well from homeschooling to grade nine at BA. Jon is pleased to see his friends again. Ben attended classes the first week of school. He is now part of the middle school homeschool program at BA. Please continue to pray for the children's safety on the road as they travel to school.

Thank You!

Thank you for your continuous prayers for us and your faithful support. There were times over the last two and a half years when we wondered if we would ever move to the Village. Now we are there. What a blessing. We truly praise God for only HE could open all the doors so that we could accomplish this feat. *Please continue to pray, as more doors need to be opened for us to get the Village ready to accept children.*

Grace and Peace,

Mike + Sherri Ritter

Mike, Sherri, Jon, Jessica and Ben Ritter

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** If you are not receiving our monthly e-mail updates and would like to, please contact us at the above e-mail address so we can add you to the list.

P.S. From the Home Office: The Ritter family is at 63% of the total needed for their second term for 2008-2009.